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August 15, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write to you today to urge the Federal Communications Commission to approve the launch of LightSquared's 4G-LTE network as soon as possible without any disruption to GPS services and devices.

With the increasing rise in demand for wireless broadband data services all across the United States, it is absolutely vital that more spectrum space be expediently assigned to wireless broadband. Because the National Broadband Plan issues the same opinion, I know the Commission President must agree with this goal. LightSquared has held a license on its L-Band spectrum for many years, and to allow this valuable range of spectrum lie fallow would be a waste of opportunity.

The proposed 4G-LTE network by LightSquared represents the best chance in the immediate future for a significant expansion of the nation's wireless broadband spectrum. This network is completely privately funded. It would mean over 260 million Americans would have access to next-generation wireless broadband, especially those in rural areas and other underserved portions of the country that currently lack any ability to connect wirelessly to the internet.

LightSquared will offer its service on a wholesale basis, which will provide another benefit to the United States – increased competition in the wireless industry. Small wireless service providers would be able to upgrade their offerings, and it will also allow new entrants into the market to launch their service – including those that sell electronic devices requiring broadband wireless connectivity such as e-readers – without having to find the capital needed to build out such a robust and expensive network.

Nothing worthwhile comes easy. I'm aware of reports by the media that potential interference issues exist causing disruption to GPS receivers during tests of LightSquared's transmissions. Undoubtedly the Commission should proceed cautiously so that GPS devices aren't completely disabled. However the political pressure being placed on the FCC by GPS companies is entirely inappropriate. Moving forward the Commission should proceed with the path it already has laid out: convene a cooperative working group of all the stakeholders, test the extent of interference, and finally develop a remediation plan.

It is logical that interference issues would be resolvable with the addition of filtering technology to GPS devices that mistakenly look for signals inside LightSquared's spectrum. Ultimately, the GPS industry has had nearly a decade to prepare for the optimization of the neighboring spectrum. These filters should already be built into its receivers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian Alphonso
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